newfangles

Number 7, February 1966 and how about that? Published bimonthly, but in these newsfilled times we come out a bit more often, by Don & Maggie Thompson, Mentor, Ohio 44060 USA. Cost is an ex-orbitant 10¢ per copy, most of which goes to pay the Post Office for delivering this first class. We also trade for news items We use (Changes of Address are run as a service and no free copies are given for these). Next issue will still be due in March.

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academy moribund

The Academy of Comic Art Fans and Collectors (or The Academy of Comic Book Arts and Sciences) appears to be dead. According to Bob Schoenfeld, Longtime Executive Secretary Dave Kaler has been afflicted with physical and financial difficulties which have apparently forced him out of comicfandom.

Bob and Mark Hanerfeld have agreed to consider the Academy dead, thanks to nonexistent treasury, Executive Secretary, and good reputation. It will be so declared, according to Bob, in On the Drawing Board, Vol. 2, #17. (Since Bob and Mark are the only persons through whom Dave has spoken recently, this must be regarded as the only official notice we're likely to receive.)

OTDB, financed primarily by Dave and supplied with the bulk of its news by him, will continue at an increased price of 25¢ per copy, with news supplied by Mark.

What happens to the Alley awards? Bob is not certain whether the 1967 awards will be completed or if the remaining unpublished results of the 1966 poll will be published. There are some Alley statuettes remaining, however, and Bob feels they may inspire an attempt to keep the awards going.

The only reputable comicfan organization extant (nothing has been heard from the DCTC, whose avowed goal was to ~~[illegible]~~ unite all fandoms under their banner, for months--and, besides, we said "reputable") seems to be the newly-formed SCARF, which plans a New York comics convention this summer. (See NF#6.)

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MAC RABOY DEAD

Mac Raboy died late in December or early in January (again according to Bob Schoenfeld). Raboy, whose Captain Marvel Jr. art is still being traced by comic artists 25 years later, has for years been credited with the Sunday Flash Gordon strip. There are no other details available.

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Your subscription carries you through #___; then, you're on your own.

BAT DROPPINGS

Rumors in the television biz are rife that Batman is to be dumped at the end of this season. Indications that a cure for batmania has been found are also deducible from the dramatic circulation loss in the Fledermausian Felony Foe's own magazine, which plummeted, unbelievably, from 898,470 in 1966 to 805,700 in 1967. That's a loss of 92,770. And the issue nearest filing date, 1967 figures, shows a loss of (holy bankruptcy) 324,170 from 1966.

Interestingly, all of DC's magazines show circulation losses (all we've seen--we do not buy many of them). Average loss seems to be around 30,000. Which, as Mike Barrier commented, explains why DC has been blowing its own horn so loudly in recent months.

Marvel's circulations differ: a few titles have lost a few thousand circulation per month, but many have increased healthily. Tarzan seems to be the only Gold Key comic showing an increase and many of GK's books are switching to reprints. Dell seems to have no continuing titles left; none last long enough to compile figures on circulation. And Charlton--de mortuis nil nisi bonum.

MORE PRO NEWS

(We do try to leave the pro news to CFDB, but it's increasingly difficult; we get news, we pass it on.) Jack Miller has been replaced as editor of Strange Adventures by Dick Giordano. Miller has been moved to editorship of Wonder Woman but may continue to do occasional Deadman scripts. This is one symptom of a general shake-up and shape-up at DC which you must have noticed--Joe Orlando editing Inferior 5, many new titles and changes in old ones, Viko, etc. Reason for all the changes is speculative, of course, but read the secon paragraph on this page for our theory.

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ANOTHER CONVENTION... There will be a convention, not specifically for comic fans, at the Statler-Hilton Motel in Los Angeles July 4-7. Hopefully, says Fred Patten, there will be items about comics on the progran and possibly a comic-book exhibit. Write Fred, Santa Ana, California 92707.

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FAN PROJECT IN TROUBLE

Word from Ed Aprill (via Fred Patten) is that his Cartoonists' Showcase, slickpaper reprintings of adventure strips on a proposed bimonthly schedule, is not doing well. Sales on the first issue ($2 for Modesty Blaise and James Bond) are slow and Ed has lost about $300. The secon[illegible]ue has not been published. In an attempt to save the magazine, Ed is seeking rights to run the current daily Tarzan by Russ Manning and Secret Agent Corrigan (no X-9) by Al Williamson. Support of fandom is needed--150 $2 orders for #1 would do it. It's available from Ed Aprill Jr., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103.
Ironically, this is the sort of thing where the publisher goes broke and dealers make fortunes in a few years when it's finally out of print.